

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Johnson et al.                            ) Examiner: Richard R. Shaffer  
   ) Art Unit: 3733  
Application No.: 10/624,066                            )  
Filed: July 21, 2003                                        ) Confirmation No. 5163  
  )  
TISSUE DISTRACTION DEVICE                                ) October 3, 2006

**AMENDMENT AFTER FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 7, 2006, lease consider the following amendments and remarks. This response is being filed within the three month period for response (to and including October 7, 2006, so no extensions of time or associated fees are believed to be necessary. However, if any extension of time is required, it is requested that the Commissioner provide such extension. In that instance, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct any associated fees from Deposit Account 13-0014.

With the following amendment, Applicants have added seven (7) new claims. The Commissioner is authorized to deduct any necessary fees for the additional claims from Deposit Account 13-0014.